

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NASA-02
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-11 CEQ-01
OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ISO-00 /168 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 10 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. HELEN THOMAS OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID PRESIDENT CARTER, SIGNING NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT, EMPHASIZED THAT LAW PROVIDES "CLARIFIED AND ADEQUATE AMERICAN POLICY ON USE OF NUCLEAR FUELS AND AT SAME TIME IMPOSES RIGID CONSTRAINTS ON NATIONS WHO DO NOT NOW POSSESS ABILITY TO BUILD BOMBS." SHE SAID CARTER DECLARED THAT LAW WILL ENHANCE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING
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SALT AGREEMENT AND CTB. "CONTROL OVER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON OUR PLANET IS ONE OF PARAMOUNT QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME," CARTER ASSERTED.

2. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED FROM GENEVA THAT SOVIET UNION "CAPPED ITS INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMERICAN-DEVELOPED NEUTRON BOMB YESTERDAY BY SUBMITTING TO DISARMAMENT CON-

REFERENCE HERE DRAFT OF TREATY TO OUTLAW NUCLEAR WEAPON." TIMES SAID PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PACT, CO-SPONSORED BY MOSCOW'S SEVERAL ALLIES IN 30-NATION DISARMAMENT FORUM, WOULD BIND NATIONS "NOT TO PRODUCE, STOCKPILE, DEPLOY

ANYWHERE OR USE NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS." TIMES SAID SOVIET MOVE WAS "IMMEDIATELY DENOUNCED BY ADRIAN S. FISHER, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, AS 'ONE-SIDED PROPAGANDA EXERCISE.' U.S. VIEWED INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED TREATY AS AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT CONFERENCE FROM ITS ROLE OF DEVELOPING DISARMAMENT MEASURES ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY BY TURNING IT INTO 'PROPAGANDA FORUM,' MR. FISHER SAID." UPI, ALSO REPORTING FROM GENEVA, QUOTED FISHER AS DECLARING: 'WE HAVE HEARD SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE SPEAK OF INHUMANITY AND BARBARITY OF NEUTRON BOMB. BUT I FEAR THAT WE WOULD WAIT IN VAIN TO HEAR THEM SPEAK OF INHUMANITY AND BARBARITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SOVIET ARSENAL, SOME OF WHICH ARE AS MUCH AS 20,000 TIMES -- I REPEAT 20,000 TIMES -- MORE POWERFUL' THAN AMERICAN WEAPONS.

3. JOHN ROBINSON, IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON POST FROM BRUSSELS, SAID U.S. HAS PROPOSED TO ITS NATO ALLIES THAT NEUTRON WARHEAD BE USED AS BARGAINING CHIP WITH SOVIETS. QUOTING NATO SOURCES, ROBINSON SAID UNDER THIS STRATEGY, U.S. WOULD AGREE TO CALL OFF PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WAR-
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HEAD AND NATO ALLIES WOULD AGREE TO FOREGO ITS DEPLOYMENT ONLY IF SOVIET UNION WOULD AGREE TO EITHER RETIRE ITS NEW SS-20 MOBILE MISSILE, WHICH IS TARGETED ON WESTERN EUROPE OR REDUCE WARSAW PACT TROOP LEVELS. "IF SOVIETS REJECT THESE OFFERS, AS MANY U.S. OFFICIALS EXPECT, IT WILL THEN BECOME EASIER POLITICALLY TO GO AHEAD WITH BOTH PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF WEAPON," ROBINSON REPORTED, AGAIN QUOTING NATO SOURCES. "MILITARY LEADERS HERE AND IN U.S. FAVOR THIS STEP," HE POINTED OUT. ROBINSON SAID LESLIE GELB, HEAD OF STATE'S PM BUREAU, UNVEILED THIS PROPOSAL AT SECRET MEETING OF NATO AMBASSADORS FEBRUARY 24 IN BRUSSELS AS WAY TO DEFUSE EUROPEAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON WARHEAD. "SOURCES SAY GELB PROPOSED TWO-PRONGED STRATEGY FOR 'ARMS CONTROL-LING' NEUTRON WEAPON. PART ONE IS SAID TO BE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, INVOLVING DIRECT TRADEOFF BETWEEN NEUTRON WARHEAD AND SOVIET UNION'S SS-20. DEFENSE ANALYSTS HERE, HOWEVER, PRIVATELY QUERY 'SYMMETRY' OF NEGOTIATING NEUTRON WARHEAD AGAINST SS-20 WHICH, UNLIKE NEUTRON WEAPON, IS NOT TACTICAL BATTLEFIELD WEAPON BUT MEDIUM-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE WITH THREE INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR WARHEADS. SECOND OPTION SUGGESTED BY

GELB, SOURCES SAID, IS FOR NATO TO PUT NEUTRON WEAPON ON TABLE OF TROOP REDUCTION TALKS CURRENTLY STALLED IN VIENNA. HERE AGAIN, THERE SEEMS NO OBVIOUS PARALLEL BARGAINING COUNTER THAT WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES COULD OFFER IN EXCHANGE, UNLESS IT WAS COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF TANK SUPERIORITY. IN THIS SCENARIO, NEGOTIATORS WOULD

HAVE TWO YEARS--TIME NEEDED TO PRODUCE NEUTRON WEAPON--TO GET SOVIETS TO AGREE TO CONCESSIONS. IF THESE WERE NOT GIVEN, DEPLOYMENT WOULD FOLLOW." ROBINSON SAID AMERICAN PROPOSALS MAY RUN INTO DIFFICULTY WITH SOME OF EUROPEANS, IN PARTICULAR SCANDINAVIANS AND DUTCH, BUT AMERICAN FORMULA COULD GAIN POLITICAL ACCEPTANCE IN BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY. HE SAID IT IS CLEAR AMERICANS WANT DECISION UNCLASSIFIED

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ON NEUTRON WARHEAD OUT OF WAY BEFORE NATO SUMMIT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30-31 IN WASHINGTON.

4. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE TOLD SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY THAT WHILE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT COULD AFFECT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, SALT NEGOTIATION "SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN FEET BECAUSE IT'S MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO US. IT'S JUST TOO IMPORTANT TO LINK TO THIS KIND OF SITUATION."

5. AVIATION WEEK (MARCH 6) REPORTED THAT PRIMARY GOAL OF SENATE HEARINGS IN APRIL ON SPACE ARMS CONTROL WILL BE TO ACCELERATE U.S. INITIATIVES IN NEGOTIATING BAN ON ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS WITH USSR. HEARINGS WILL BE CHAIRED BY SENATOR STEVENSON, WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-SATELLITE AND OTHER ATTACK SYSTEMS IN SPACE, MAGAZINE SAID. STEVENSON, AVIATION ADDED, IS CONCERNED THAT INCREASED U.S. AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN MILITARY SPACE PROGRAMS WILL RETARD DEVELOPMENT OF VALUABLE CIVILIAN SPACE SYSTEMS. NASA ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT A. FROSCH RECENTLY TOLD STEVENSON HE BELIEVES SOVIET ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS ARE AIMED AT U.S. MILITARY SPACECRAFT AND NOT CIVILIAN SYSTEMS, MAGAZINE SAID. STEVENSON REPORTEDLY REPLIED "THAT IS NOT REASONABLE ASSUMPTION, BUT SOME HOPE IT WILL BE."

6. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID NEW CONGRESSIONAL MOOD TOWARD PEACETIME MILITARY SPENDING IS NOW BEING TRANSLATED INTO RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE CARTER'S DEFENSE BUDGET. HE POINTED OUT HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY VOTED TO ADD 2.6 BILLION DOLLARS TO CARTER'S DEFENSE BUDGET OF 128.4 BILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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DOLLARS (COUNTING NUCLEAR WARHEADS SUPPLIED BY ENERGY DEPARTMENT). SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IS WEIGHING AN INCREASE, WITH REPUBLICANS THERE PRESSING FOR AN ADDITION OF 6 BILLION DOLLARS, WILSON REPORTED. ONE VETERAN STAFFER TOLD WILSON "MOOD UP HERE HAS DEFINITELY SWUNG FROM CUTTING DEFENSE BUDGET TO ADDING TO IT."

7. ROBERT KAYLOR OF UPI REPORTED THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN, AT FRIDAY AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID IT MAY

BE POSSIBLE TO USE NEUTRON WEAPON AS BARGAINING CHIP IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS FOR LIMITATIONS ON SOME ADVANCED WEAPONS, BUT QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. WILL PRODUCE WARHEAD AND SEND IT TO WESTERN EUROPE "IS CERTAINLY RIPE FOR DECISION." BROWN ALSO SAID SALT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SLOWED BY NUMBER OF "DIFFICULT ISSUES," INCLUDING EXPORT OF CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO NATO ALLIES, BUT AN AGREEMENT STILL MAY BE POSSIBLE WITHIN "SOME MONTHS." VANCE

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